

Department of Natural Resources Impact in Vernon County

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources aims to excel at working and partnering with the public to protect and manage the state's natural resources while supporting the economy and the well-being of our citizenry.



Did you know?

In 2011, Wisconsin had

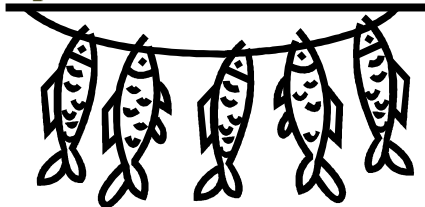
763,384



RESIDENT HUNTERS

In 2011, fishing in Wisconsin had an economic impact of over

\$1.4 billion



In Vernon County, **20,932** licenses were sold in 2013-14.

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Investments in Recreation

In fiscal year 2014, **Wildcat Mountain State Park** had close to **248,735 visitors**, making an estimated **economic impact of \$12,436,750**.

\$62,275 was awarded to Vernon County to maintain **249 miles of Vernon County Snowmobile trails**.

Kickapoo Valley Reserve received **\$18,865 grant** for the purchase of **Berg Property**. The 20 acres of property was acquired to develop trails within the reserve.

DNR offers a variety of safety classes around the state annually. In 2013, a total of **362 citizens** became **hunter, ATV, boating and snowmobile** certified in Vernon County.

Community Partnerships

The **citizen-based monitoring program** partners citizens and scientists to evaluate Wisconsin's natural resources. The DNR partners with Vernon County through this program to **control invasive species** on private lands and to **conduct bat surveys**.

In 2014, the **DNR put on over 20 school demonstrations** for kids to teach fish identification and general fishing knowledge.

In fiscal year 2014, three well abandonment grants were awarded for a total of **\$12,000**. These grants provided **financial assistance** to individuals to properly fill and seal unused private wells to **reduce the risk of ground water contamination**.

Snapshot of grants in Vernon County

DNR awarded **\$976,095** to Vernon County for **reconstruction of the Runge Hallow Dam**.

*Numbers reflect the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 time period.

Forestry Activities

Since June 2010, **DNR has provided over \$116,471 to private forest owners in the county to assist them in protecting and enhancing their forested lands**, prairies and waters through management plan development, tree planting, practices that improve forest health and soil and water protection.

DNR granted \$30,534 to local Fire Departments in Vernon County to purchase equipment and supplies that improve their capability and safety on wild land fires.

Vernon County has 64,652 acres of private land open for public access for recreation as a result of tax law programs (Forest Crop and MFL). The Tax Law Programs encourage proper management of timber, wildlife, water quality and the environment through written management plans for a landowner's property.

Since 2011, **Vernon County has received \$15,238 in Urban Forestry Grants to support new, innovative projects that will develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs.**

Since 2005, **over 1,598 cord equivalents of timber products have been harvested from state-owned land** in Vernon County. The harvests provided over **\$26,780 in revenue** to the state and contributed employment opportunities and raw materials to the local economy.

Environmental Cleanup Efforts

DNR approved **cleanups at 311 contaminated properties resulting in 7 acres being made available for reuse.**

DNR provided **\$97,026 in reimbursements** over the past 3 years for expenses relating to the **investigation and cleanup of petroleum contamination** from product storage systems.

DNR partnered with County Economic Development to transform the former National Cash Register manufacturing plant (80 jobs lost in 2009) into the Food Enterprise Center, a food manufacturing business incubator site.

Deer Management in Vernon County

In 2014, Vernon County established a County Deer Advisory Council. One council per county, they provide input and recommendations to the DNR on deer management.

DNR worked with nine landowners who have 500 acres enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program to improve wildlife habitat on their property.

In 2013, a total of 6,985 deer were registered in Vernon County with 1,150 harvested during archery deer season and 5,835 harvested during the gun deer season.